



Little Sprouts 

Early Childhood Center

# COVID-19 Protocols

**Revised** as of 2/28/2022\*

**(Changes highlighted in yellow, effective February 28)**

*\*We thank you for understanding and expecting that protocols will change periodically as required and as recommended.*

*We will communicate any changes in a timely manner.*

It is important to us that little folks and their families feel safe in our environment. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to affect all of us, we realize our enhanced responsibility in stopping the spread. We appreciate the trust that you are placing in us and will be diligent in partnering with you in keeping you and your little folks and your families healthy and well. We are planning our time together thoughtfully, and will continually monitor current federal, state, and local guidelines to ensure that our protocols are up to date and compliant now and throughout the coming school year.

As a program licensed by the State of Michigan, it is a requirement that we follow guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Oakland County Health Department, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

We will continue to implement the following **CDC-recommended multi-layered approach** to provide the safest experience possible, with **a change in mask-wearing requirements for both Central United Methodist Church visitors and for Little Sprouts families, under the advisement of the Oakland County Health Department, as of Monday, February 28, 2022.**

- **SCREENING:** All families will continue to be required to verify a symptom-screening sign-in each day. (Has your child had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher in the last 24 hours? Do you have any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, dry cough, difficulty breathing, or digestive symptoms? Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case?)
  
- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MASK WEARING:**
  - **Adults and children entering CUMC to attend either Preschool or Play Group programming, are no longer required to wear masks in the building, nor in the classroom.**
  - **Some school staff and students will continue to wear masks for a variety of reasons, including personal or family health concerns. We will respect and fully support families who elect to continue mask-wearing, and appreciate everyone's diligence in daily screening for any symptoms that are out of the norm for your little folks or for your family. We thank you for communicating with us, any specific needs or concerns as they arise.**

We are very excited to see your families each day, and will continue to be very conscious of meeting you in the hallway promptly at the beginning and at the end of class in order to limit the time that you will be required to share a communal space!

- **COHORTING:** CDC cohorting expectations dictate that “groups should include the same children each day, and the same care providers should remain with the same group of children each day”. It was a conscious decision on our part to offer a small, mornings-only approach to programming here at Little Sprouts, which allows cohorting to be very natural for us, by design.

There are only 2 classrooms at Little Sprouts this year--One for Preschool programming, and one for Family programming. Our arrival and dismissal times have been thoughtfully planned to ensure that only one group of children/families will use each classroom each day, and use of communal spaces (Lobby, Motor Room, Library, Restrooms, Play Ground) will be staggered between cohorts (class groups).

- **SANITIZING / HAND WASHING / RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:** Communal and classroom spaces and surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Licensing protocols regarding health and safety practices for children, adults and staff will be reinforced. (Frequent hand-washing with soap and water, sanitizing when soap & water are not available, coughing/sneezing into a tissue or an elbow...) Please see our licensing binder located outside of the Little Sprouts office for further details.
- **STAYING HOME WHEN SICK:** Children, families and staff should stay home if sick or having COVID-19 symptoms, and are encouraged, regardless of vaccine status, to get tested for COVID-19 if having symptoms or if they are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

According to the CDC, “The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggest that a child has an infectious illness and should not attend, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19.” It is imperative that little folks are not brought to school if they show signs of illness. A temperature of 100 or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough (for children with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline), diarrhea, vomiting or

stomach ache, new onset of severe headache, symptoms of other contagious illness, such as little green noses and excessive congestion are all signs that little folks should be kept at home for a little TLC until they are feeling well again.

If class is canceled due to teacher illness or mandated closure, a make-up class will be offered at the end of the session.

- **CONTACT TRACING:** We will be under the advisement of the OCHD for all contact tracing/quarantine procedures & recommendations, and notification & confidentiality requirements.

As a program licensed by the State of Michigan, it is a requirement that we follow guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Oakland County Health Department, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

We realize that there are naturally a huge range of emotions regarding sending your little ones off to school without the added concerns of the pandemic. As adults, WE are setting the tone for how these sweet little folks will feel about their school experience...It has been our experience that when we are able to adopt a positive tone, our children do, as well! The health and safety of our learning community is of the utmost importance to us--We appreciate your grace, your support, and your open communication! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns at any time.

Thankyou,

Monica Hungerford [hungerfordmonica@gmail.com](mailto:hungerfordmonica@gmail.com)

Mary Boynton [mboynton59@comcast.net](mailto:mboynton59@comcast.net)